

every saloon keeper and vender of the liquid fire of hell has gone out of the business. The young people will never escape this question until the cries of ten thousand times ten thousand homeless, ragged children and starving babes, heart broken mothers, desolate homes, ruined souls writhing in the very gall of bitterness, shall have come up and aroused the common sense of a prosperous people, and created a public sentiment that will place its heel upon this hydra of our civilization and crush out his life for time and eternity. In conversation with a professor of music in Ashland, a few days ago, he said, "The human race are the most excitable people on the face of the earth;" the human race are the most foolish people on the face of the earth or this monster demon would have had his life crushed out long ago. As long as young men wink at the wine cup, and young ladies accept the arm of so-called gentlemen who dare taste the abominable stuff, so long there will be a liquor problem to dispose of.

Another problem that is pressing harder each year for a solution, that should have been settled a hundred years ago, that has been patiently waiting all these centuries for wise and level-headed statesmen who are equal to the emergency, is the problem of war and international relations. A shame it is that the Christian world's conception of what the world ought to be has not yet risen above the horrors and butcheries of war. International relations are not yet divorced from armies and navies. The most successful killer is the most popular hero. More money is spent in wars, even now, at the close of this century with all its boasted civilization, than in science, education, and religion. This is not as it should be, and not as it will be when the kingdom of God is but vaguely realized. Here is a great problem for the young people; it is one they must solve, for with all the optimistic elements that make up our being we confess that the prospect for a speedy deliverance from the horrors and outrages of war is not yet bright enough to go into raptures over it. But wars must cease; the Lord has declared it, and twice blessed is he who falls in line with the workings of the Almighty in its abolition.

Then there is that other and more serious problem of labor and capital, two contending forces which should be at peace with each other, and would be if they recognized the golden rule, but instead are at war with each other, and as a result the very foundation of society is threatened, and social and economical problems arise on every hand. We are yet far from the righteous equality concerning the rewards of labor. Even in our most advanced civilization we see wealth, which is the fruit of toil accumulating in vast and alarming individual aggregations,

while the millions of toilers do not find the conditions of life less difficult and strenuous as the days go by. To adjust these intricate relations between capital and labor is one of the great problems that confront us in the opening of the new century, and it is one of those questions which forces itself upon us, we can not escape it. It lies at the foundation of our civilization, it touches our national life, our home life, it has entered into the church, and neither the preacher of righteousness, the theologian, nor the politician can escape it. The responsibility rests upon us, and we must meet the obligation or go to the judgment bar of God with the remorse of unimproved opportunities and undischarged duties. Mr. Blaine estimated that each worker in this country creates six dollars of wealth each day. If anything like this estimate represents the actual facts of the case, there is yet a wide chasm between capital and labor, and we can see what a vast problem remains yet to be solved before the Christian idea of universal brotherhood will be realized. Perhaps we do not reflect sufficiently upon the far reaching consequences involved in this question of economic equality. If the working classes received an equitable proportion of the wealth created by them, they would be more prosperous. If they were more prosperous, they would be better educated, thereby reducing or abolishing the large percentage of illiteracy which shames this enlightened country. If they were better educated, and endowed with larger opportunity to realize the more cultured and more rational enjoyments of life, we would approach far more rapidly and certainly a righteous solution of such problems as the saloon, and of honest government.

Another phase of the social question which must be included in this category of new era problems is that of marriage and divorce. The alarming statement has been made, and the more alarming, because verified by the facts in the case, that in some of our large cities there are three fourths as many divorces as marriages. This is an awful state of affairs and is just cause for alarm. Here is a problem that must have the attention of our legislators and statesmen. Perhaps more than any other, this question directly touches the home, and hence the very foundation of our civilization. The evil that dares cross the threshold of the home, and invade the sanctity of home life, must be arrested in its progress, for it pollutes the stream at its fountain head. It is not too much to say that this problem, more than any other, looks to the young people for its final solution. They must solve it because they alone can. The ability to do brings with it responsibility and obligation. We are stepping over into the new century with this question of mar-

riage and divorce following close upon our heels with all its tremendous consequences. There must be instilled into the hearts of our young people the truth that marriage is a divine institution; that there is but one relation in life that is more sacred than the marriage relation, that which exists between man and his Maker; that there is but one relation more intimate and endearing, that which exists between Christ, the heavenly bridegroom, and the church, his bride; that a relationship so endearing, so sacred, so intimate, so divine, is not to be broken but by the hand of death. And before entering into such a relationship let the young people be fully persuaded that it is only after due consideration, and in the fear of God; that they have fully counted the cost of a union which God has placed his seal and favor. Not only would I have legislation against all divorce except for a cause which Christ himself allows, but I would have an examination of both lady and gentleman before marriage license be granted. I am reminded of the Irishman who labored a half hour to put on a pair of new boots, when with blistered hands he gave it up, said "I believe I must wear 'em a few days before I can get them on." Just how the Irishman expected to wear his boots before he put them on I can not explain, but there are thousands of young people who put on the marriage relationship with just as little consideration. What can our young people do to remedy the evil? Very much indeed. Let them learn first of all what love means before engagements are entered into. Love, and that alone will solve the intricate problem, as it will all other social questions. Much of what passes for love is not love at all; it is mixing of a nameless something in unknown quantities, more nearly described by "puppy" love than anything else. Let the ladies refuse to walk with a young man who dares to puff away at a cigar in her presence; and let them refuse an introduction to young men who lift the intoxicating cup, and who with brazen impudence would despoil the queen of human graces, the purity of woman. The world needs a generation of women who would rather walk the streets of a city or town with a sweet boy or girl baby in their arms, than carry a nasty pug dog, or any other dog for that matter, women who are real mothers, and who accept the little babe when he comes to their home as the gift of God, and who with their own hands will nurse and train the little child and train it for God instead of turning it over to a hired nurse that she might be free to follow the unchristian fashions of the world.

But these problems are so numerous that I am in danger of wearying my hearers, and the young people will despair if the new century will lay the responsibility of their solution at their door. What with the question